What is claimed is:

1.   A surveillance system comprising:

a camera arranged to output images of a

5   protected area;

an input device arranged to provide a data

annotation; and,

a server arranged to synchronously store the

images and the data annotation so that the data

10   annotation can be used to search for a segment of the

images.

2.   The surveillance system of claim 1 wherein

the server is arranged to time stamp the data annotation.

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3.   The surveillance system of claim 2 wherein

the server is arranged to compare the time stamp of the

data annotation to an image count when searching for the

segment of the images.

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4.   The surveillance system of claim 3 wherein

the server is arranged to cause the segment of the images

matching the time stamp to be displayed.

5.   The surveillance system of claim 1 wherein the server is arranged to save the data annotation in SQL readable form.

5   6.   The surveillance system of claim 5 wherein the server is arranged to time stamp the data annotation.

7.   The surveillance system of claim 5 wherein the server is arranged to receive an SQL search string

10   corresponding to the data annotation to be searched and to search for the data annotation based on the SQL search string.

8.   The surveillance system of claim 7 wherein

15   the server is arranged to match the data annotation found as a result of the search to the segment of the images.

9.   The surveillance system of claim 6 wherein the server is arranged to match the time stamp of the

20   data annotation to an image count when searching for the segment of the images.

10.   The surveillance system of claim 1 wherein
the camera comprises a video camera, and wherein the
server comprises a video server.

5   11.   The surveillance system of claim 1 wherein
the camera comprises an IR camera.

12.   The surveillance system of claim 1 wherein
the camera comprises a thermal imager.

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13.   A method comprising:

storing surveillance video in a memory;

storing data annotations in the memory, wherein
the data annotations are useful in searching for a video

15   segment of the surveillance video of interest; and,

synchronizing the stored data annotations to
the corresponding video segments of the stored video so
that the data annotations can be used to search for the
video segment of interest.

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14.   The method of claim 13 wherein the
synchronizing of the stored data annotations to the
corresponding video segments comprises time stamping the
data annotations with corresponding time stamps.

15.   The method of claim 14 further comprising searching for a particular data annotation.

5   16.   The method of claim 15 further comprising comparing the time stamp of the particular data annotation to a timing of the video when searching for the video segment of interest.

10   17.   The method of claim 16 further comprising displaying the video segment of interest that matches the time stamp of the particular data annotation.

18.   The method of claim 13 further comprising

15   searching the data annotations using a search criteria.

19.   The method of claim 18 wherein the synchronizing of the stored data annotations to the corresponding video segments comprises time stamping the

20   data annotations with corresponding time stamps.

20.   The method of claim 19 further comprising searching for a particular data annotation.

21.   The method of claim 20 wherein the searching includes matching the time stamp of the particular data annotation to a timing of the video.

22.   The method of claim 21 further comprising displaying the video segment of interest that matches the time stamp of the particular data annotation.

23.   The method of claim 18 wherein the searching of the data comprises using SQL to conduct the search.

24.   The method of claim 23 wherein the synchronizing of the stored data annotations to the corresponding video segments of the stored video comprises time stamping the data annotations with corresponding time stamps, wherein the searching comprises matching the time stamp associated with the stored data annotation that corresponds to the search criteria to a timing of the video, and wherein the method further comprises displaying the video segment of interest whose timing matches the time stamp associated with the stored data annotation that corresponds to the search criteria.

25.   A surveillance method comprising:

capturing images of a protected area;

storing the images in a computer readable

5   memory;

storing data annotations in the computer

readable memory, wherein the data annotations are

searchable using a search criteria; and,

storing a link that links the stored data

10   annotations to corresponding image segments of the stored

images so that the data annotations can be used to search

for an image segment of interest.

26.   The surveillance method of claim 25

15   further comprising searching for a particular data

annotation using the search criteria.

27.   The surveillance method of claim 26

further comprising displaying the image segment of

20   interest linked to the particular data annotation found

as a result of the search.

28.   The surveillance method of claim 25

wherein the link comprises a time stamp.

29.   The surveillance method of claim 28 further comprising searching for a particular data annotation using the search criteria.

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30.   The surveillance method of claim 29 further comprising comparing the time stamp corresponding to the particular data annotation found as a result of the search to a timing of the images when searching for

10   the image segment of interest.

31.   The surveillance method of claim 30 further comprising displaying the image segment of interest whose timing matches the time stamp of the

15   particular data annotation.

32.   The surveillance method of claim 25 wherein the search criteria comprises an SQL search criteria.

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33. The surveillance method of claim 32 further comprising:

searching for a particular data annotation using the SQL search criteria;

finding the image segment of interest linked to the particular data annotation; and,

displaying the image segment of interest.

34. The surveillance method of claim 25 wherein the link comprises a data attribute stamp, and wherein the data attribute serves as an index to retrieve video and data segments of the same characteristic inferred by the data attribute.

35. The surveillance method of claim 34 wherein the data attribute comprises temperature.

36. The surveillance method of claim 34 wherein the data attribute comprises luminosity.

37. The surveillance method of claim 34 wherein the data attribute comprises a biometric signature.